

No. 52

March 1993



*Dinosaurs in Yateley?!*

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*The  
Yateley Society  
Newsletter*



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Newsletter No. 52

MARCH 1993

Editor: Tony Hocking, 30 Connaught Close Yateley (0252) 875158

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THE EDITORIAL.

The AGM is now behind us, and we must get used to the new Officers and Executive Committee.

The Officers are:

Chairman	Richard Johnston
Vice-Chairman	Roy Maryon
Secretary	Carolyn Seymour
Treasurer	David Healey

The Executive Committee members are:

Michael Holroyd	Geoff Hoare (Membership Secretary)
David Lister	Jim Atkinson (Minutes Secretary)

(Yes, I have escaped from the Committee, but I'm still Newsletter Editor, etc)

-----ooOoo-----

The second Yateley Society Dinner was a most enjoyable success, full marks to Carolyn Seymour for arranging "a good run ashore" as the navy would call it!

(I hope we can look forward to another dinner next year.)

-----ooOoo-----

Once again, do not forget to look at the Programme Page - there should be something for most people!

-----ooOoo-----

The May Fayre will soon be upon us - needless to say we will be there, with a really super exhibition: "Life in Yateley in 1878".

If you have forgotten why we chose 1878, I will remind you that it is an eventful year in the John Mills diaries and the first year of the Parish Magazine - what better reasons could you want?

Please see page 2 for an article on the May Fayre.

---ooOoo---

Tidy minded? - see page 3!

---ooOoo---

RECENT NEW MEMBERS

from Geoff Hoare

We are pleased to welcome Mr and Mrs Hobbs, of Little Orchard, Chandlers Lane to the Society.



THE MAY FAYRE

by Stephanie Pattenden

After the AGM our thoughts turn to the May Fayre which is on May 3rd this year. We will be having a display as usual and a sales stall to help defray expenses.

Some of our stalwart contributors are no longer able to help us, so I am hoping that new people will come forward with gifts and offers of help on the day.

We like to receive cakes, sweets, preserves, handicrafts and plants. Also unwanted gifts such as cosmetics and toiletries sell well (Unused please!).

To comply with E.C. regulations all food items must have the producer's name and address attached.

We do not sell toys because of other regulations.

Please deliver all goods to me on Sunday May 2nd for packing and pricing. We are far too busy at the May Fayre to be able to do it on the day.

Goods for sale are essential, almost as important are the people to sell them; please let me know if you are able to spare time on May Day to help man the stall - even an hour will make a big difference.

Thank you,

Stephanie Pattenden,  
26, Home Park Road, Yateley  
(Off Hall Lane opposite Yateley Hall)  
Tel: Yateley 874994

P.S. Help will also be needed with the erection and dismantling of the marquee on May Day. Any volunteers please give their names to Ron Pattenden at the above address.

--ooOoo--

24th February. KITCHEN-SINK BIRD WATCHING by Norma Dowling

As I washed up the breakfast things this morning the following birds visited our feeding station: six starlings; one robin; one blackbird; a pair of sparrows; two bluetits; a male siskin; one coaltit; a pair of bullfinches and a goldfinch.

Some years ago I planted teasles especially for goldfinches, as these are supposedly a favourite food, and once you have planted teasles you are never without! Goldfinches are now regular daily visitors to the garden and know all about peanut feeders.

While researching for the Society's "Yateley in 1878" project I came across an article in a Yateley Parish Magazine of 1878 in the Church Archives:-

"Perhaps the prettiest of all English birds, and the best songsters, are the goldfinches. I am happy to say that there is a large flock of them in the village, I have frequently heard their delightful song from my garden....and only yesterday I had the pleasure of seeing perhaps the most elegant of all our small birds, the grey wagtail, which, by the by, is much more yellow than grey..."

The grey wagtail is also an occasional visitor to our garden so it is good to know that some things haven't changed in Yateley, although I



must admit I have yet to see "red-backed shrikes on a walk to Mousesham." (Moulsham)

I was not aware of the goldfinch's song, though I suppose it was one reason for the bird's popularity as a cage bird in the past. My Collins Bird Guide describes the call as "a liquid tswitt-witt-witt but unique tinkling quality.." I must listen as well as watch.

This winter I have set up a make-shift bird table on the lawn, visible from the kitchen sink of course. Here I put seed which is enjoyed by pigeons and a pair of collared doves, as well as chaffinches and the robin. Our hen enjoys pecking around for any left-overs when we let her out.

I used to stop feeding the birds at the end of March but it is now thought that many garden birds find a shortage of natural food with the cold wet springs that we seem to have now.

An article in the latest R.S.P.B. magazine, Birds, suggests that robins, dunnocks and finches in particular will benefit from a regular supply of "artificial" food into the breeding season. Recent research shows that it is very unlikely that unsuitable food will be fed to small nestlings by parent birds. However, it is suggested that we stop feeding whole peanuts in spring but supply instead sunflower seeds, grated cheese, moist bread crumbs, crumbled biscuit and mixed seed. The article also reminds us of the importance of a clean supply of water.

A great success in our garden has been the introduction of a hanging basket near the peanut feeders, into which I put scraps. To see this full of long-tailed tits, with tails poking out at all angles, is a real delight. I have learned to recognise the "dry rattling trill" that announces their presence.

As I rinsed the last of the bubbles down the sink, reluctant to bring the bird-watching session to an end a fox entered the garden from the rear and loped along the side of the house through the front and out into Firgrove Road, perhaps making his way to Blakes Pond?

This confirmed my suspicions as to the cause of a track through the grass. Don't worry, I checked that Henny-Pen was still safe in her run.

--ooOoo--

TIDY BRITAIN WEEK

by Tony Davis

As part of Tidy Britain Week, Yateley Common Country Park will be having a spring clean day on 18th April. We will be starting at 10:00am and finishing at 12:30pm. Groups will meet at Wyndhams Pool car park and Blackbushe Airport terminal building. Rubbish sacks will be provided but please bring gloves if you have them.

Further information can be obtained from the Site Manager, Tony Davis, on Yateley 874 346.



## YATELEY'S OLD BONES

On Thursday 28th January, at the Yateley Society AGM, it was suggested that people might be interested in finding out the origins of their street names.

Some are obvious, like Wordsworth Avenue, though why it is called an avenue when it is really a crescent, is a puzzle.

Valerie Kerslake has written a booklet "Today and Yesterday - a Walk in Yateley", published by the Yateley Society, in which a number of street names are mentioned, but there are many more whose origins are unknown or obscure.

About 60 million years ago dinosaurs wandered about where Yateley is now, and tropical plants bent in the hot wind blowing in over a warm sea. The dinosaurs left their bones to posterity and our imagination is tickled by the thought. Today, instead of bones, we have street names on a map to commemorate the lives of more recent worthies.

On December 4th 1894 Yateley Parish had its last meeting, because, one supposes, by that time the population had grown too large to meet together and a Council had to be elected. This was done and Rev C D Stooks was elected chairman. (He is mentioned in Valerie's book as having 15 children, and so needed to enlarge the Vicarage, now Glebe House.) The newly formed Council had its first meeting on 17th December 1894. The Rev Stooks has his memory perpetuated in "Stooks Way", off Wordsworth Avenue. One could imagine it was named after corn stooks as nearby a cul-de-sac named "Cornfields" is found. (I do not know the origin of Cornfields.)

Another member of the Council at that time was Mr John Packenham Stilwell, after whom "Stilwell Close" is named. Other Council Members over the years have been Mrs de Winton Cory (1894) after whom "Winton Crescent" is named, though a Miss de Winton Cory was also a Council Member in 1937. The family used to live in Yateley Hall, after which "Hall Lane" is named. The Hall itself has recently been beautifully restored, and a Yateley street could worthily be named after Mr John Behan, the head of Lacken Construction Ltd. the company which did the work and which now owns it, rather than after some outsider such as Mr Wordsworth. (I seem to have a bee in my bonnet about Wordsworth!)

In 1910 there was a councillor called Mr William Shakespeare, but he has no street named after him!

Colonel Lawford (hence "Lawford Crescent") was Chairman in 1919, and in 1926 a Lieutenant-Colonel Stooks brought that name back to the Council.

Looking at the names easily leads to side-tracks. For example, in 1926 the tennis courts on The Green were built at the suggestion of a Mr English and Mrs Stilwell. Was she the widow of Mr Packenham Stilwell? Are the Packenhams related to the Duke of Wellington? (The Great Duke's wife was a Packenham.)

In 1932 Mr Gibbs (immortalised in "Gibbs Way") was elected a Councillor and became Chairman in 1934. He was still there in 1939 at the first meeting after the start of the Second World War. (The war is never mentioned in the minutes, obviously the Council had more important things to think about!)

In 1934 Mr G E Ives was a Councillor and gave his name to "Ives Close", and in 1941 Mr Hearsey ("Hearsey Gardens" in Blackwater) is named as the Treasurer when a meeting was held at the British Legion



hall. He is also remembered on the plaque for the opening of the cemetery off Stevens Hill.

There might be a case for changing some of our street names to something of more local interest rather than to commemorate other well known but distant stars. After all if Paris can change La Place des Etoiles to La Place Charles de Gaulle, so can Yateley do something to commemorate its own heroes.

Information about your street name, and any other suggestions, would be welcome, and I think of interest to many people. If you have anything which you think of value, could you please drop it in, or post it to the undersigned at Monteagle Surgery, Tesimond Drive, Yateley, Camberley, Surrey GU17 7FE.

David Lister

--ooDoo--

#### THE POND

by Stephanie Pattenden

Two summers ago my husband suggested building a pond. In my ignorance I agreed, suggesting that the expense could be his birthday present. It would be a small pond in place of a flower border just outside the back door and between the house and the patio.

In retrospect, digging the hole, lining it and building a retaining wall were the easy part; as were buying a pump and plants and putting them in place.

We duly filled it with water, and waited a couple of weeks for things to settle down.

Next came the fish. Nothing fancy like Japanese Koi, but good old-fashioned goldfish. A friend gave us some to start with. Unfortunately the local cats soon discovered a new source of food so they did not last long! Annoying - because our cat just drank the water but did not touch the fish.

So - we erected a fence before buying more fish. That time we bought comets and shubunkins (which are varieties of goldfish). From then on we became experts on fish diseases. Flukes, dropsy, ulcers, mouth rot, fin rot, we had it all.

Meanwhile the water had turned a murky green so the next expense was a filter tank. At the same time Ron erected a waterfall in one corner so that the water was better oxygenated.

Winter came and went, and some fish survived. The pond had iced over several times, but we filled a container with hot water to make a small hole and thereby allowed dangerous gases to escape.

By March we realised that we had a pair of frogs installed. They duly spawned and gave the fish a real feast. Many survived to become tiny frogs however. By summer the fish had spawned too, but not many of those survived because the fish eat the eggs as soon as they are laid. (Nature's way of preventing overcrowding I suppose, but it seems a crazy system to me.) Out of the three batches of eggs laid we have two home grown fish, which are still black.

The water became murky again in the sunshine so we then invested in an ultraviolet unit. More expense, but it worked.

More fish diseases, which may have been caused by our neighbours



finding a discarded carnival prize fish which they added to our pond when we were on holiday.

We cleaned the pond out in the autumn and found nine large frogs at the bottom and in the folds of the lining. They did not like our activities and kept trying to return to the pond before we had finished. How we did not step on them I don't know.

As the water has been clear this winter we could see that the frogs actually stayed in the water, unlike toads which hibernate in drier places. The frogs have been pairing up since the middle of January and only rise to the surface on a mild day.

It has been rather an expensive venture, but one which has been very interesting. Our problems are still not over however: does anyone out there know how to get rid of blanket weed?

--ooOoo--

### The Christmas Quiz

by Tony Hocking

For those of you who missed the Christmas Social, here is the Quiz which I devised to keep people amused.

The cryptic clues refer to street/road names or, in some cases, to areas or estates in Yateley. See how many you can work out. (I will publish the answers in the next issue of the Newsletter.) To reassure those who know me, there is only one with a railway context!

### CHRISTMAS CRYPTIC QUIZ ON YATELEY.

- 1 - FOR THE PARSON, AND THE PARSON'S NOSE?
- 2 SOUNDS LIKE A RACING COLOUR
- 3 THERE ARE WHITE MEN UP THERE
- 4 SUNSET PASTURES?
- 5 NOCTURNAL ANIMAL AND ITS SATELLITE
- 6 THIS LANE IS A RURAL RIDE
- 7 WHERE YOU MOTOR THROUGH THE CALEDONIAN FOREST
- 8 A GOOD SPINNEY FOR BIRDSONG?
- 9 A COLOURFUL LANE AT BOTH ENDS OF THE PARISH
- 10 A HERBAL THOROUGHFARE
- 11 CAN YOU BUY CHIPS IN THIS LANE?
- 12 THE BRITISH OPEN ROAD
- 13 SOMEONE EXPECTS TO HELP SHIPS IN THIS LANE
- 14 CROSSING A SURREY RIVER WITH ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE
- 15 HORTICULTURAL CAR MUSEUM?
- 16 YOU COULD DRIVE A TRACTOR ALL OVER A SPHERE
- 17 WE ARE NOT AMUSED TO MOTOR HERE -
- 18 - BUT PIGS WOULD MOTOR HERE FOR LUNCH!
- 19 THE ECOLOGICAL CENTRE OF YATELEY?
- 20 CONTRIBUTES TO THE WOODEN WALLS OF ENGLAND, HEALTHY TOO!
- 21 A THOROUGHFARE FOR BOOKLOVERS
- 22 CLOSE LOST THE ST. WHEN MOVING FROM CORNWALL
- 23 STEADY POSITION FOR LOOKING AT HORSES



- 24 VULCAN'S PALACE
- 25 AN AVENUE OF LITERARY DAFFODILS?
- 26 THE HISTORY OF YATELEY FINISHES HERE
- 27 STREET OF CHRISTMAS BERRIES
- 28 WHERE THE 3 MUSKETEERS ENDED UP?
- 29 AUSTRALIANS STOPPED FLYING HERE
- 30 SOAP STREET? - NO! - ROAD
- 31 THE GROUNDS OF ISCA DUMNONIORUM
- 32 DID MRS GASKELL PARK HER CAR HERE?
- 33 COULD BE A GWR 78XX CLASS - BUT NOW ITS A SCHOOL
- 34 CLOSED TO TROGLODYTES?
- 35 LEADS TO ITS NAMESAKE, AND COMES BACK OVER THE BRIDGE
- 36 GROWS PRECIOUS METAL - CUNNING!
- 37 BATTING THROUGH THE RIVER
- 38 LEVEL (FROM THE COURT PRECINCT TO THE DUTCH ROAD)
- 39 COULD BE THE WEAKEST PART OF YATELEY?
- 40 A SPECIAL AGENT MAY LIVE HERE

AND YET MORE HOUSES?

1. HILL FARM, YATELEY.

Charles Church's first Appeal for permission to build at Hill Farm, Cobbetts Lane was refused by the Secretary of State for the Environment in 1982. Now they are pursuing a smaller scheme. At the District Plan Inquiry in December/January 91/92 they presented this new scheme as an ideal site to make up an anticipated shortfall in available building land in Hart District. Unfortunately the Inspector conducting the Inquiry has agreed with this opinion. Now Hart DC has to choose which possible sites put forward in the Local Plan process might have to be released for development within the next 5 years.

The matter will be debated on 25 March and Councillors need to be aware of the weight of public opinion. Letters opposing the inclusion of Hill Farm should be sent to Hart DC by 22 March 1993 with copies if possible to Cllrs Mrs A Kern, A Hammersley and A Manley c/o Hart District Council.

The objections are:

1. Intrusion into open countryside.
2. Access - by Stevens Hill and Round Close.
3. Breaching a defensible settlement boundary, Stevens Hill.
4. Churchill Crescent, a "windfall" site already approved will supply approximately 120 unplanned extra houses in Yateley.
5. All the ongoing objections to increasing Yateley's disproportionate population.

Ted Brooks (874962) has maps and copies of a specimen objection letter. This letter has only to be signed, but a personal letter carries more weight. Please object.



AND YET MORE HOUSES AGAIN!?

## 2. FOX FARM, YATELEY.

The threat to Fox Farm, Monteagle Lane, is another Planning Inquiry on 28 April 1993 by ADT to build on the land now used for the horse shows, and adjacent to the northern boundary of the Common. The last appeal in 1989 was turned down purely on the lack of safe access onto Monteagle Lane, since there are private covenants on part of the open space owned by Hart District Council. To get round this ADT are now proposing to build a new road on common land to the south of Little Vigo to join Vigo Lane to the west of the new industrial estate.

ADT did not put Fox Farm forward in the District Plan process, so this is one black mark against them. Furthermore the whole planning environment has now changed: there is now no "presumption in favour of development", only a presumption in favour of the District Plan. All the heathlands from Chobham Common to Yateley common and Castle Bottom are a "candidate Special Protection area" for conservation of certain wild birds. The three environmental impact surveys commissioned and financed by the Yateley Society are being used as a basis of the evidence being prepared for the Inquiry by English Nature, Hampshire County Council and the RSPB.

The proposed new roadway would be illegal under common law unless ADT goes through the proper procedures. This seems unlikely since the chances of gaining the necessary permissions seem remote. So if an illegal unfenced road were built then motorists would be able to park all over the common land every Sunday to avoid the Sunday market parking charges.

If this is another application you feel strongly about write PERSONALLY to:

The Department of the Environment, Planning Inspectorate,  
Tollgate House, Houlton Street, BRISTOL BS2 9DJ

Quoting Inquiry References: APP/N1730/A/93/217847 and HDC/21912



# YATELEY SOCIETY PROGRAMME 1993 (FROM MARCH 93)

## - MARCH -

- Thurs 18 TALK: Legal Protection of the Countryside Y.C. Green Room 8:00pm  
By Dr Barry Peachey, who is well qualified in all aspects of the countryside and law.
- Sun 28 CONSERVATION ON THE COMMON Our regular working party assisting the Rangers. Wyndhams Pool 10:00am

## - APRIL -

- Sun 18 KEEP BRITAIN TIDY Initiative Day on the Common - SEE PAGE 3 Wyndhams Pool  
This is part of a nationwide week for cleaning up the countryside. The Country or Blackbushe Apt terminal  
Park Rangers will be leading clean-up parties on the worst parts of the Common. 10:00am to 12:30pm
- Thurs 22 TALK, Yateley Common, The One That Got Away, Y.C. Green Room 8:00pm  
By Michael Holroyd. The story of several 19th century attempts to enclose  
Yateley Common, and why they failed.
- Sun 25 CONSERVATION ON THE COMMON Our regular working party assisting the Rangers. Wyndhams Pool 10:00am
- Sun 25 WALK, A Fritillary Walk led by Edward Dawson Please assemble at the Wellington Monument, by the A32. (Try to share cars.) Please park off the main road. Wellington Monument  
Map ref SU 717 616 2:30pm  
We will be led to a field containing a spectacular display of fritillaries.

## - MAY -

- Mon 3 MAY FAYRE - Come and support the Society at the Fayre! Yateley Green 10am - 5pm  
SEE THE EDITORIAL AND THE SPECIAL ARTICLE ON PAGE 2
- Tues 11 WALK and TALK, Eversley Highlights Eversley Church 7:00pm  
Led by Sara Beer who is the expert on Eversley and its church. Lychgate ref SU 780 609
- Thurs 20 TALK, Landslides in Selborne. Y.C. Green Room 8:00pm  
An illustrated talk by Prof. Edward Bromhead. Professor of Geology at Kingston.  
We are assured of an interesting talk by this expert, who lives in Yateley.
- Sun 30 CONSERVATION ON THE COMMON Our regular working party assisting the Rangers. Wyndhams Pool 10:00am

## - JUNE -

- Sun 13 FOREST FAIR. The Forest of Eversley Fair Eversley  
Countryside interests and activities on display, and possibly some amusements. Brickhouse Farm  
More details later.
- Thurs 17 TALK, Landscape Design in Hampshire Y.C. Green Room 8:00pm  
By Ian Philips, Landscape Architect for Hart.
- Sun 20 WALK, The Welsh Drive, Led by the Forest of Eversley Trust Details TBA
- Sun 27 CONSERVATION ON THE COMMON Our regular working party assisting the Rangers. Wyndhams Pool 10:00am
- Sun 27 BUTTERFLY WALK on Yateley Common. Led by Dr Robert Guest, our local Details TBA  
expert on butterflies. This is a joint Yateley Society and Yateley Country Park event.
- ? ? WALK, a Flower Meadow Walk Led by Irene Draper. Details TBA

## - JULY -

- Sat 3 YATELEY SOCIETY SUMMER BARBECUE Barclay House 7:00pm  
One of our major social events - DON'T MISS IT!! Full details later.
- Fri 9 NIGHTJAR WALK led by Irene Draper Details TBA  
Those of us who have been nightjar spotting before know just how amazing their  
calls are, and how fascinating they are as they chase insects in the dusk.